

## ACCESS TO TIMELY CARE IN PORTUGAL AS COMPARED TO OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

Access to dementia care varies across Europe, an impression for which more evidence is needed. In Portugal, data is scarce on the accessibility and utilization of formal care by persons with dementia. The health and social care systems are complex, and regulations have often changed in recent times. Despite improvements, timely access to services does not seem to be standard practice yet.

The Actifcare project aims to collect all information available on the topic and to provide new evidence on qualitative and quantitative grounds. Focus groups' preliminary results point to issues concerning the availability and accessibility of formal care, along with strong (but changing) family networks. In the cohort study, difficulties with the ongoing recruitment process illustrate how persons with mild dementia are not easily identified in primary care; referral to specialized care often occurs when functional dependence befalls. Among Actifcare countries this scenario differs.

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